

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN COA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCS-03 L-02 EB-07 SCA-01 H-01

INR-07 DLOS-03 PRS-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 SS-15 NSC-05

CIAE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 INT-05

PM-03 DODE-00 SP-02 COME-00 /064 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA /FA B.S.HALLMAN:EEB
APPROVED BY OES/OFA THOMAS A. CLINGAN, JR.
ARA/EP-MR. CLARK

----- 070986

O R 282220Z JAN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 020103

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, EC, US

SUBJECT: SEIZURE OF U.S. TUNA VESSELS

1. DEPT. AGREES WITH EMBASSY THAT IT WOULD NOT BE IN BEST INTERESTS OF EITHER GOE OR USG TO SERIOUSLY ESCALATE SEIZURE PROBLEM AT THIS TIME. WE MUST POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT CONFISCATION OF CATCH WOULD BE VIEWED BY MANY IN U.S. AS SIGNIFICANT ESCALATION OF SITUATION. CONGRESSIONAL INTERESTS ARE BECOMING AROUSED OVER RECENT SEIZURES AND CONFISCATION COULD TRIGGER A VERY TROUBLESOME REACTION. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE SINCE MUCH OF CATCH ON BOARD FOUR VESSELS WAS TAKEN FAR FROM ECUADOR, INCLUDING FISH ON BOARD JACQUELINE A WHICH REPORTEDLY WAS INSPECTED BY USG AND SEALED IN WELLS DURING LATE 1974.

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2. DEPT. UNDERSTANDS THAT GOE LAW PROVIDES FOR CONFISCATION AND PERHAPS GOE HAS NO FLEXIBILITY IN APPLICATION OF LAW. IF SOME FLEXIBILITY DOES EXIST, HOWEVER, EMBASSY SHOULD URGE GOE TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE IN CONSIDERING CONFISCATION OF CATCH, POINTING OUT THAT CONFISCATION WOULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON APPROACH OF MANY IN U.S. TOWARD SEIZURES, AND COULD CAUSE UNFORTUNATE COMPLICATION WHICH ARE

NOT IN BEST INTERESTS OF EITHER USG OR GOE.

3. DEPT APPRECIATES EFFORTS OF EMBASSY AND CONSULATE IN ATTEMPTING TO EXPEDITE RELEASE OF VESSELS. WE BELIEVE IT VERY IMPORTANT THAT VESSELS BE RELEASED AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME AND HOPE GOE UNDERSTANDS THAT DELAY WILL ONLY MAKE SITUATION MORE TROUBLESOME.

4. FYI - REPRESENTATIVE (AUGUST FELANDO) OF AMERICAN TUNA-BOAT ASSOCIATION AND OTHER U.S. TUNA INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES ARE ARRIVING IN WASHINGTON EVENING JAN. 28 WITH INTENTIONS OF FURTHER STIMULATING CONCERNED USG OFFICIALS AND CONGRESSMEN ON SEIZURE SITUATION. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHING BOATS, FISHING DISPUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE020103
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EEB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750031-0844
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750113/aaaaalef.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN COA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 SEP 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEIZURE OF U.S. TUNA VESSELS
TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, EC, US
To: QUITO GUAYAQUIL
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006